stations is made every quarter by the Standing Linkage Committee (Short-Term), of the Ministry of Coal. The SLC (ST) is an interministerial body having representatives from Coal India Limited (CIL), coal companies, Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the power utilities and the Railways. Allocation of coal is made keeping in view various related factors like availability of the required grades and quality, transport logistics etc.

Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB) have, in the past, requested certain linkages of coal for Ukai Thermal Power Station from Western Coalfields Limited (WCL). However, due to constraints of the Railways, the request of GEB could not be agreed to.

(c) The average Gross Calorific Value (GCV) of non coking coals despatched from WCL in 2000-01 is not more than that of Eastern Coalfields Limited.

Supply of coal to G.E.B., Gujarat

3986. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA :

SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gujarat Electricity Board was allowed to take 50 per cent of coal instead of 68.7 per cent from Main Line and 50 per cent instead of 31.3 per cent from Korea Rewa;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the economic burden on Gujarat Electricity Board due to the change made by the Ministry in the percentage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) Linkages of coal are accorded every quarter by Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term), an inter-ministerial body functioning in the Ministry of Coal, and comprising of representatives from coal companies, Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Ministry of Power, the power utilities and the Railways. The allocations of coal are made, keeping in view the availability of required grades and quantities and transport logistics.

Year-wise linkages of coal, accorded by SLC (ST) to Gujarat Electricity Board, from Korba (Mainline) and Korea Rewa Coalfields are given below :

(Figures in Lakh tonnes)

Year	Linkage			% of Total Linkage	
	K-Rewa	Korba	Total	K-Rewa	Korba
1	2	3	4	5	6
1996-97	55.50	57.45	112.95	49	51
1997-98	53.55	75.00	128.55	42	58
1998-99	53.40	75.00	128.40	42	58
1999-2000	52.05	95.30	147.35	35	65
2000-2001	36.60	81.55	118.15	31	69

(c) Coal from mainline Korba Coalfields is cheaper than that of Korea-Rewa. Therefore, the change in the pattern of linkage would mean less coal cost for GEB.

Arsenic contamination of Damodar river by coal mine projects

3987. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Damodar river is being heavily contaminated due to flow of arsenic from the coal mine projects located on both of river in Dakra and Rajrappa in Hazaribagh and in Bokaro;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (c) The ambient quality of Damodar river is monitored on a regular basis in North Karanpura coalfields where Dakra mine is situated and in Ramgarh coalfields where Rajrappa mine is situated. So far arsenic has never been found beyond the tolerance limit statutorily prescribed. IIT, Kharagpur has carried out tests of the various samples collected in command area of Central Coalfields Limited.